Performance of Export Processing Zones

4452. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number and location of Export Processing Units and Zones established in the country as on 31st March, 2000;

(b) whether the working of EPZs has been reviewed during the past five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof as per standard norms of monitoring, EPZ-wise with reasons for slow performance; and

(d) the details of action plan/fresh policy initiatives taken for restructuring the working of EPZs and proposal for establishment of new EPZs with locations during 2000-2001 in general and Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) :

Regarding Performance of Export Processing Zones

(a) The details of units in operation in seven Export Processing Zones in the country set up by the Government of India as on 31-3-2000 are given below :

	Zone	No. of units in operation as on 31-3-2000
1.	Kandla Free Trade Zone, Kandla.	129
2.	Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone, Bombay.	170
3.	Noida Export Processing Zone	172
4.	Madras Export Processing Zone, Madras.	92
5.	Cochin Export Processing Zone, Cochin.	54
6.	Falta Export Processing Zone, Calcutta.	60
7.	Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone, Visakhapatnam.	15
	TOTAL :	692

(b) and (c) The performance of EPZs is monitored annually by the Development Commissioners in accordance with the guidelines given in the Handbook of Procedures (1997-2002). The monitoring of EPZ units during 1997-98 revealed that 60% of the units have either fulfilled their obligations under the scheme or have been kept under watch while penal action has been initiated in the remaining cases. Some of the reasons for low performance are stiff competition and recession in international market, failure of marketing arrangements, withdrawal of foreign collaborator and obsolescence of technology.

(d) The measure introduced in the Exim Policy effective from 1-4-2000 to improve the performance of EPZs include stipulation of positive net foreign exchange earning for capital intensive units, liberalisation of sub-contracting facility and further deregulation of activities of units.

An EPZ is already functioning at Santacruz, Bombay. In addition, a private EPZ at Kandiveli (East), Bombay has also been approved for establishment by M/s Kay Foam Ltd. However, there is no proposal to set up any new EPZ under the Government of India.

Agencies Working in Maharashtra

4453. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Voluntary and other organisations, private/public including industries, projects and trusts, separately working in Maharashtra with the assistance of foreign/national aid or otherwise, with the quantum of such aid received by each of them during the years 1998 to date, district-wise; and

(b) what is the progress made by such agencies, so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) There are several sources of aid, both foreign & domestic, taped by various organisations at the State level. Foreign aid could be in the form of bilateral aid or aid from private agencies. All matters relating to bilateral aid, including the manner of receipt and utilization of aid is determined by the Central Government. So far as aid from private foreign agencies is concerned, the same is regulated by the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Similarly there are many domestic private foundations/trusts that extend aid for various purposes. Since the recipients of aid fall under a wide spectrum